

REMARKS

Claims 1-76 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 21, 39, and 58 have been amended.

The applicant is mindful of the outstanding rejections of: claims 1-6, 20-25, 39-44, and 58-63 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Balazinski et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0097707 (Balazinski) in view of Hariharasubrahmanian, U.S. Patent No. 6,819,681 (Hariharasubrahmanian); claims 7-12, 14-17, 19, 26-31, 33-36, 38, 45-50, 52-55, 57, 64-69, 71-74 and 76 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Balazinski in view of Hariharasubrahmanian and further in view of Hong et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,359,894 (Hong); and claims 13, 18, 32, 37, 51, 56, 70 and 75 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Balazinski in view of Hariharasubrahmanian and Hong, and further in view of Maggenti et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,477,150 (Maggenti). Nevertheless, the applicant respectfully submits that the claims as amended are allowable over the cited references for at least the reasons stated in his Response to Final Office Action of December 1, 2005.

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA, 22313-1450, on Jan 3, 2006.

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1/3/06
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Respectfully submitted,



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